

**WEST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2014 7:30 PM  
LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS**

**ITEM 1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:39 P.M.**

President Slifka: All right. We'll call the Council Meeting to order and begin with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

President Slifka: Okay, good evening everyone. We'll begin with the roll call, please, Ms. King.

**ITEM 3. ROLL CALL: ALL COUNCILORS WERE PRESENT.**

President Slifka: Okay, we go to number 4, Ms. Cantor.

**ITEM 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Councilor Cantor: I move that we receive, approve the Town Council Minutes from April 24, 2014.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: Motion's made and seconded. Any discussion on the Minutes? Seeing none. All those in favor?

All: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries.

**ITEM 5. PUBLIC FORUM:**

President Slifka: We're up to the Public Forum and thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Nobody has signed up. Is there anybody who did not sign up who wished to speak to an item on the agenda this evening that was not the subject of a Public Hearing? Okay. Move that. We move to the Report from the Town Manager. Mr. Van Winkle.

**ITEM 6. REPORT FROM TOWN MANAGER:**

Mr. Van Winkle: Just a few things. The last round of spring yard waste collection is the week of June 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>. Residents are encouraged to recycle plant material in biodegradable plant paper bags instead of disposing them in the mainstream. The bags are put at the curb on collection day. Branches and brushes up to 4" in diameter and 4' in length will be accepted if they are bundled with organic twine. Now this is the last round to get your gardens cleaned out and get going.

It's been a great spring for your garden and I don't know if you've noticed but West Hartford looks about as green and beautiful as it has ever, I think, this spring. On June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> is the annual Celebrate West Hartford that we have here in our parking lot. This is a huge opportunity for food, fun, and art, an enormous craft show, a lot of good food, a lot of fun for kids and adults at our West Hartford Celebrate June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Other than that, I really don't have anything. If you have any questions, I'd be glad to answer them.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Van Winkle. Are there questions for the Manager? Mr. Doar?

Councilor Doar: Mr. Van Winkle, could you just give the Council an update on the Farmington Avenue road repaving project. Is it on time, on budget?

Mr. Van Winkle: Farmington Avenue from Trout Brook to Whiting Lane has, was under substantial construction last year. We are replacing all the underground utilities, which include the storm sewers, the sanitary sewers, the water lines, and the gas line in that road. The water and gas, the water and sewer lines are the biggest project that you see out there right now. MDC is moving forward. That project work is being accomplished, should be done, their portion of the work should be done soon. Once all those utilities get finished underground, we'll come in and replace the surface of the road, so we're on schedule and should be done by mid-late summer.

Councilor Doar: Thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Doar. Any other questions for the Manager? Okay. Thank you, Mr. Van Winkle. We'll move to number 7, Ms. Cantor.

**ITEM 7. CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT CALENDAR: ITEMS 16 AND 17 TO RECEIVE.**

Councilor Cantor: I move that we place items 16 and 17 on a consent calendar.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: Motion's made and seconded. Any discussion? Seeing none. All those in favor?

All: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries. We're up to Unfinished Business, number 8.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**ITEM 8: APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF STEELE ROAD, LLC, THE CONTRACT PURCHASER UNDER AN AGREEMENT WITH MERCYKNOLL INCORPORATED, OWNER OF 243 STEELE ROAD, TO AMEND SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT #33 (243, 253-275 STEELE ROAD AND 2021 ALBANY AVENUE) TO SEPARATE 243 STEELE ROAD FROM**

**SDD #33, TO DEMOLISH THE VACANT MERCYKNOLL STRUCTURE, AND TO  
CONSTRUCT A 200-UNIT MULTIFAMILY APARTMENT COMPLEX WITH POOL AND  
CLUBHOUSE AT 243 STEELE ROAD WITHIN A NEW SDD**

**TABLED**

Councilor Cantor: I move that we table.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: Tabling is a non-debatable motion.

Mr. O'Brien: That's correct.

President Slifka: Okay so that is it. Number 9, Ms. Cantor.

Councilor Cantor: Number 9...

President Slifka: Oh, wait, I'm sorry. I, why am I saying that? It's been a little too confusing today. Thank you for the reminder. Okay, we can discuss it. Anyone want to discuss it? All those, all right, we can't discuss it because it's non-debatable. Wow. I really ought to just...here we go. See you later. Time to go. All those in favor?

All: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries. Okay. It'll take me three or four times to get it. Yeah. I hope you guys are not writing any of this part down, supporting what not to do. Number 9, Ms. Cantor.

**ITEM 9. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATION**

**ADOPTED, VOTE 9-0**

Councilor Cantor: I think we...this we already had a Public Hearing on.

President Slifka: I'm sorry. I wrote that...yeah. Just adopt.

Councilor Cantor: Okay, thank you. I move that we adopt.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: Motion's made and seconded. Any discussion on number 9, which was the subject of the earlier Public Hearing. Okay, seeing none. All those in favor?

All: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries. We are up to New Business, number 10.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ITEM 10. RESOLUTION SETTING TOWN COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR JULY 22 AND AUGUST 26**

**ADOPTED**

**WHEREAS** the Town Council rules call for a single Council meeting in July and August;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the July meeting is set for July 22, 2014, and the August meeting is set for August 26, 2014, both at 6:30 p.m. in the Legislative Chamber, Room 314.

Councilor Cantor: I move that we adopt.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: Motion's made and seconded. Any discussion on this? Just for the public and those who are here, the Council normally meets twice a month but per charter we meet only once in the months of July and August, so we have to set those dates and we have selected after surveying the Council July 22<sup>nd</sup> and August 26<sup>th</sup>. Is there anything further? Okay. All those in favor?

All: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries. And number 10, that was 10, 11. Wow. This is getting worse.

**ITEM 11. RESOLUTION CONTINUING THE PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING MEDICAL MARIJUANA PRODUCTION FACILITIES AND DISPENSARIES**

**ADOPTED AS AMENDED TO CHANGE PUBLIC HEARING DATE TO JUNE 24, 2014 AT 6:30 P.M.**

**WHEREAS** on October 22, 2013 the Town Council adopted an ordinance declaring a nine (9) month moratorium on the establishment of marijuana production facilities and dispensaries; and

**WHEREAS** the Town Council opened a hearing on an ordinance concerning medical marijuana production facilities and dispensary facilities on March 25, 2014 and continued that hearing, but did not continue it to a specific date or time;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF WEST HARTFORD THAT** the hearing which was commenced on March 25, 2014 in connection with

an ordinance concerning medical marijuana production facilities and dispensary facilities is hereby continued to June 10, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.

Councilor Cantor: I move that we continue...

President Slifka: We will adopt and then we'll entertain a motion to amend it.

Councilor Cantor: Okay. I move that we adopt.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: Okay. The motion is made and seconded. I'd like to entertain a motion to amend the Resolution to change the date to June 24<sup>th</sup>.

Councilor Cantor: So moved.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: Motion's made and seconded. I think...keep up what I've been doing tonight and people are going to think I'm using this product in advance of the meeting. Okay. And just to clarify for those, the members of the public who have been following this a bit, the, on the date that we are continuing the Hearing to, we've had two prior Public Hearings, the second one was, ended a bit early due to some scheduling issues with Council members but at the time and Mr. Alair was kind enough to reproduce the transcript, we did announce, Ms. Hall and I, put into the record that we did not, we were not going to take public, further public testimony when we were to reschedule that Hearing because we otherwise would've completed it that night. This is going to, when we get to the 24<sup>th</sup>, presumably, that will just be devoted to picking up the Hearing at the point where the Council continues our questioning of the matter so we're, and discussion of the matter and so for, so please, we hope, if you want to show up and watch in person, we certainly encourage you to do so but please don't come expecting to testify. We're going to attempt to communicate that to people that may not be meeting, watching this meeting otherwise so there are no, so there won't be expectations that are not met that night but it was in the transcript from the prior Hearing just for the record. So, that said, any discussion on this, moving it from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup>? Mr. Barnes, go ahead.

Councilor Barnes: I just have a question as to the reason why we're moving it from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup>?

President Slifka: The reason we were doing that was to accommodate Mr. Doar's schedule. He's, he had to be out of town at the last minute after we had originally settled on the 10<sup>th</sup> as the date and so in order to allow him to participate in person, we agreed we would all move to the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Councilor Barnes: Okay. That's it. Thank you.

President Slifka: Would you like to add any travel plan details or? Kidding. Okay. All those in favor?

All: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries. That concludes the New Business. We're up to Announcements.

## **ITEM 12. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

President Slifka: I have some but would anybody else like to go first? Ms. Casperson?

Councilor Casperson: We are always excited to have new businesses opening in town. We will have another opening on the first day, June 20<sup>th</sup> will be Doctors Express opening on 1030 Prospect Avenue so we're wanting to welcome them into the West Hartford community.

President Slifka: Thank you, Ms. Casperson. Ms. Cantor.

Councilor Cantor: Thank you. West Hartford was named a Bronze Bicycle-Friendly Community and I just will explain that. The League of American Bicyclists has announced its latest round of bicycle-friendly community awards, including West Hartford at the bronze level. The Bronze BFC Award recognizes West Hartford's commitment to improving conditions for bicycling through investment and bicycling promotion, education programs, infrastructure, and pro-bicycling policies. There are now 303 BFC's in 48 states across America. I want to give a special thanks to the Bicycle Task Force for their commitment and focus on this and I will, I have heard from many of the Bicycle Task Force that they were a little surprised that we received this designation and they are hopeful that we continue to make more improvements and move up the ladder for silver and gold and those are significant changes that need to be made but we will all try our best to make our community pedestrian, bike, and vehicular safe. I also wanted to announce the Rotary Lobster Fest. It is the signature event for Rotary, the largest fundraiser that they do. It has been moved from a normal fall date in September to June 21<sup>st</sup> from 5:00 – 8:30. Lonesome Eddie and the Bird Dogs will be performing. They are terrific and details on it are on, I think there's a link to the website but anybody can contact me. It's \$55.00 per person, \$10.00 per child. Most of that does go to the fundraising opportunity and the Rotary supports many different organizations in the Town and I hope you can make it. It really is a fun night.

President Slifka: Thank you very much. Let's see, are there any others? Okay. There are several here. We have the May 31<sup>st</sup> so just a couple of days away. From 12:00 – 4:30, it's the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cruisin' Blue Back Square presented by Blue Back Square and the CT Street Legends. This event is free and open to all. It features up to 200 antique classic, custom, and old and new muscle cars. This wide display of lovingly restored vehicles is a treat to see. You can also meet with the owners and ask them a lot of questions. There'll be a live classic band and there is, there will be proceeds that are donated from the entrance fee of the cars donated to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. The Gazebo Concert Series begins throughout the, it's in the month of June in the Elmwood Senior Center Gazebo and it's every Tuesday at 6:30 and it's

starting this June 3<sup>rd</sup>. All shows are held rain or show. It's open to everyone and there is no fee. And in the month of June we have on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Sounds of Frank; on the 10<sup>th</sup>, Changes in Latitude Mini-Beach-Band, which is a Jimmy Buffet tribute band; June 17<sup>th</sup>, Eight to the Bar; and June 24<sup>th</sup>, the Creedence Fogarty Tribute Band. Door to door transportation is available to West Hartford residents who request it by calling 561-8180. The annual meeting of the West Hartford Chamber of Commerce and the Noah Webster Awards will be June 4<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. and this will take place at Atria Hamilton Heights. Reservations are required and if you want to register, please do so at [whchamber.com](http://whchamber.com). Mr. Van Winkle already referenced, so I'll just highlight the date again, the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrate West Hartford will be on June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> right here at our own Town Hall lot. The West Hartford Garden Club's 15<sup>th</sup> Biennial Garden Tour will be June 7<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Four lovely gardens will be featured ranging from quaint to spacious and luxurious outdoor living spaces. Children over 12 are welcome but no pets please and please note that not all gardens are handicapped accessible. Tickets are \$20.00 and for further information, please call 904-5426. On the day itself, you can pick up tickets at the Noah Webster House. The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Northwest Catholic Golf Tournament is on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Registration is open. It will take place at Wampanoag Country Club. This was established in 1977 to support scholarships, both academic and need-based, for deserving Northwest Catholic students. You may sign up for the 18 hole scramble or just choose to attend the cocktails and dinner. Please visit [northwestcatholic.org/golf](http://northwestcatholic.org/golf) for more details. The Celebrity Breakfast will take on June 10<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 – 10:00 a.m. This takes place, as it always does, at Effie's Place Family Restaurant, 91 Park Road, and you will receive your choice of breakfast served by local celebrities. This year is a special event, as it will pay tribute to our friend, Richard Patrissi. In addition, as he does every year now, Brad Davis of WDRC will be broadcasting his morning show live while the guests are served their breakfast and the money raised will help the Park Road Association pay various expenses for the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Park Road Parade, which will be held in October. A note that went out today, which I thought was very good from the Manager and Renee McCue. If you're getting a new driveway, the, most people in Town we discovered did not know that you first need a permit so to read from the announcement that went out, we've been seeing a growing number of driveways installed around Town with no permit and, as a result, we are educating the public about the issue. Often, homeowners are not aware as to whether their contractor obtained a permit for their job or it was required and the Engineering Division of the Town is stepping up efforts to get the word out. Driveway contractors are also required to obtain an annual license with the Town. This is in addition to your permit. A list of those licensed contractors are available on our website in a special section that says Driveway Permits. As simple as that. And the annual fee for that license is \$50.00 and if you have any questions, please contact our Engineering Division but, again, if you just go the website, I think most of the questions are answered. And last but not least, the Northwest Catholic Scholarship Scamper 5K Road Race June 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. This is their second annual. It begins and ends on the Northwest Catholic campus. This is chip-timed. Okay, most runners know that. It's a chip-timed event. It will be competitive for serious runners, welcoming for casual runners and walkers, and fun for everyone. There will be a post-race gathering, which includes food, beverages, and fun for the whole family and all proceeds for the event go to scholarships to help deserving students enjoy a Northwest Catholic education. Registration forms and information about sponsorships are available at [northwestcatholic.org/5KScamper](http://northwestcatholic.org/5KScamper) or you can contact Patricia Walsh at 236-4221. And that concludes the Announcements and I believe Ms. Hall has one final one. Okay you guys go first. Mr. Davidoff.

Councilor Davidoff: I would be remiss if I didn't remind the community that this weekend, Saturday and Sunday, is West Hartford's Relay for Life event at Northwest Catholic. One of my daughter's is the team captain of Warriors for a Cure and the other daughter is on the team and to date I think they've raised close to \$9,000.00, so they're quite impressed with their efforts before and looking forward to a good thing and the other thing is this Saturday night is the Hall High School Senior Prom. It's going to be held at the Basketball Hall of Fame so we wish all the kids out there a good prom experience and be safe.

President Slifka: Tickets not available to the general public. Just so you know, right. Ms. Casperson.

Councilor Casperson: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Playhouse on Park is celebrating their 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 5<sup>th</sup>. It's going to be happening from 6:00 until 10:00 in the evening. You can get your tickets by going to [www.playhouseonpark.org](http://www.playhouseonpark.org) and we are very excited that they are celebrating their 5<sup>th</sup> year and that they are looking for a great 6<sup>th</sup> season of success. Thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you. And if there aren't any others then, oh, Mr. Van Winkle, go ahead.

Mr. Van Winkle: I just need to correct something I said earlier. Farmington Avenue is actually going to be paved in the next couple of weeks so it's really early summer, the beginning of summer, and we should be completed with that project.

President Slifka: Ms. Cantor.

Councilor Cantor: The Art League actually is having their event, their 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It is on June 20<sup>th</sup> on the Art League Grounds and if you are interested, please visit the website. It's also a wonderful event.

President Slifka: Any others? Ms. Hall. Go ahead.

Councilor Hall: I just wanted to thank the community that came out and helped place flags at all of the veterans' graves this past Saturday at Fairview Cemetery. I think we had a record number of people who came out and we had people from other towns, people coming up from Waterbury and South Windsor and they heard about it on the radio or the TV and they drove for miles to come and really pay tribute to our veterans and they left there saying I've got to figure out how we do this in our town and so that was a great feeling. I hope and encourage anyone who hasn't had a chance to drive by to just go by Fairview Cemetery and drive through and take a look around and read some of the gravestones of the people that have served our country and it's a good feeling so thank you and, I don't know, we must've had 350 people helping us, which was just unbelievable so a reminder every Saturday before Memorial Day and every Saturday before Veteran's Day we'll go out and place those flags, so thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you, Ms. Hall, and to you and your mother for the work you did and, undoubtedly, I think the big turnout was a tribute to your dad. Sorry. Okay. I think that concluded our various announcements. Reports from the Corporation Counsel. Joe, I, before you get to it, I actually need to ask your advice to clarify something. During the discussion on



the Resolution to change the Public Hearing date of, the next Public Hearing date for the medical marijuana Ordinance, we had an Amendment to the date from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup>. I may not have clarified my intent was that was a because we were doing it by consensus, a friendly Amendment but that may not have been covered by me adequately for the record and we just proceeded to vote once so I want to make sure, a member of the Council pointed that out and make sure we, that would be okay or do we need to go back and do something else to make sure that it's set.

Mr. O'Brien: No, you don't need to go back and do something else. That would be fine because everyone is voting in favor of the 24<sup>th</sup> and, in fact, I think Councilor Barnes even asked a question about why the 24<sup>th</sup> rather than the 10<sup>th</sup>, so it's clear you were voting on the 24<sup>th</sup> as the actual date so that would be fine.

President Slifka: Okay. Thank you. Okay. Now did you have a report, sir?

**ITEM 13. REPORT FROM CORPORATION COUNSEL:**

Mr. O'Brien: No report and no Executive Session but I'll be happy to answer any questions.

President Slifka: Are there any questions for Mr. O'Brien at this time? Okay. We don't have any Appointments tonight, right? No need for Executive Session, thank you, Mr. O'Brien, so we move to 18, the Consent Calendar.

**ITEM 18. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**ADOPTED**

**ITEM 16. FROM TOWN PLAN AND ZONING RECENT PLANNING ACTIONS: 90 RAYMOND ROAD, 60 LASALLE ROAD, 100 MAYFLOWER STREET, 526 NEW PARK AVENUE, 993 NORTH MAIN STREET, 847 SOUTH QUAKER LANE**

**ITEM 17. FROM INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES RECENT PLANNING ACTIONS: 90 RAYMOND ROAD, 2 FERNCLIFF DRIVE, 243 STEELE ROAD, 847 SOUTH QUAKER LANE, 15 GREENRIDGE LANE**

Councilor Cantor: I move that we adopt.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: Motion's made and seconded. Any discussion? Seeing none. All those in favor?

All: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries. We have no Communications, no Petitions, so I'd like to entertain a motion to adjourn.

**ITEM 21. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilor Cantor: So moved.


Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: All those in favor?

All: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries. We're adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.



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Essie S. Labrot  
Town Clerk/Council Clerk

ESL/dd

**ADOPTED AT JUNE 24, 2014, TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**